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GEPLACEA MEETING CONTINUES IN MEXICO CITY

Two-Cent Boost Sought

FL151350Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Two Cuban experts were elected presidents of working committees established by the eighth plenary session of the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries [GEPLACEA]. The Cuban delegates, Horacio Tabio York and Juan Jose Herrera, were designated to head the committees which will examine topics dealing with the new international agreement as well as industrial and agricultural problems related to sugar technology. On its second day of sessions, the eighth GEPLACEA meeting agreed to work for a 2-cent increase, from 9 to 11 cents per pound, in the price of sugar, the minimum established by the product's international agreement.

Other Activities

FL152329Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2100 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 13 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The president of the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA) eighth plenary meeting, Hector Hernandez Cervantes, has stated that the "almost impregnable barriers to sugar imports imposed by the United States significantly hurt our countries' economies." Hernandez Cervantes, who is the Mexican Government foreign commerce under secretary, stated that the country to the north, upon imposing those tariff restrictions, ignored the existence of proceedings clearly accepted by all nations, including that country [the United States] as occured in previous consultations.

Delegates from 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries are attending the meeting. The conclusions of the meeting will be debated next Friday.

In another part of his remarks the "Aztec" delegate stated that the sugar industry in Mexico creates jobs for 500,000 people, of which 85 percent are peasants. He added that his country is confident that GEPLACEA will adopt mechanisms to stabilize the price of sugar on the world market.

Bolivia's Antonio Tapia will preside over the commission on markets, Jamaica's Welsley Wainwright and Guatemala's Jim (McSweny) were charged with drafting the recommendations for the plenary session.

ROJAS ACCUSES CHILEANS OF 'DELAYING TACTICS'

FY151842Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0245 GMT 15 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb--The movement for the rejection of the arbiter's decision on the Beagle Channel, headed by former Vice President Isaac Rojas (ret), today charged as delaying tactics the Chilean position regarding the border conflict between the two countries at the southern extreme of the continent. In a statement signed by Rojas and other Argentine personalities, the document affirms that "if peace is broken, Chile should assume the tremendous responsibility for the painful consequences which will come due to the invasion of our territorial and maritime jurisdictions in the South Atlantic."

After calling intransigent the position adopted by the Chilean Government, the document affirms that the diplomatic ambivalence which seeks to weaken the just demands of the Argentine Government and people, must be stopped. It added: "On the one hand, (the Chilean Government) delays the meeting of the two presidents, it supports joint negotiations by military representatives from both countries; through General Pinochet and some ministers of his cabinet it makes some remarks of brotherhood and confidence in the peaceful solution of the conflict...

"On the other hand, Chile reaffirms its decision to accept fully the arbitration rejected by the Argentine Government; it rejects the protest for the appointment of coastal wardens in the usurped islands; it maintains that these islands belong to Chile; and it changes maps expanding the Chilean domains toward the Atlantic."

It added that the Chilean Government insists that the two oceans are not separated by Cape Horn but by the southern Antillean arch; it claims its right over other islands of the southern archipelago and allows the Chilean press, subject to the restrictions of the state of siege, to encourage a campaign aimed at getting the people excited and creating a climate not conducive to friendly and fraternal solutions.

The document added: "The (Argentine) Government must carry out the second part of the program demanded by history and the highest and most vital interests of the nation. Deeds must now replace words. The very sovereignty of the nation is in play in the South Atlantic." It emphasized that "a country cannot relinquish its sovereignty or live without dignity under the shade of a peace won by surrendering rights."

TALKS WITH CHILEAN DELEGATION GET UNDERWAY

FY151615Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1426 GMT 15 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb--A working meeting of the Argentine and Chilean military delegations to discuss the border problem in the southern area began at 1045 today in Congress building. The Chilean delegation arrived in the Buenos Aires metropolitan airport at 1003.

Agreement on Document

FY160026Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2315 GMT 15 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb--The special representatives of the governments of Argentina and Chile have approved a document which will be submitted for the approval of the two countries.

This is an official report released in Government House tonight.

The text of the communique states:

According to a decision made by the governments of Argentina and Chile, special representatives of the two countries met in Buenos Aires today. During the meering, a document was agreed on which will be submitted for the approval of officials of the two countries.

ARGENTINE-UK MALVINAS TALKS BEGIN IN LIMA

PY151726Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] The third round of Argentine-UK talks on the Malvinas Islands and economic cooperation began in Lima today. The establishment of working commissions was agreed upon during the two prior rounds of talks. These commissions are beginning to work in the Peruvian capital today.

After meeting in Rome 1 and 1/2 years ago and in New York 2 months ago, the Argentine and British foreign under secretaries, Gualter Allara and Ted Rowlands, will meet again at a place which has not yet been determined to evaluate the progress of the task of the working groups, specifically regarding sovereignty and cooperation.

Malvinas Delegation Head Comments

PY151404Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Lima--The Argentine rejection of the British arbitral decision on three islands in the Beagle Channel has not affected the Argentine-British relations or the agreements which the two countries have reached regarding the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich islands. This was stated in Lima yesterday by Ambassador Raul Medina Munoz, director of the Ministry of Foreign Relations Antarctic and Malvinas Department, when he arrived heading the official Argentina delegation. Medina Munoz indicated also that the nationality of the 1,200 inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands is not a major problem, since the Argentine Foreign Ministry is willing to solve this issue.

ALIARA DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS WITH FRENCH TV

PY151421Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Foreign Under Secretary Gualter Oscar Allara stated yesterday that the Argentine State and government, represented by the armed forces, have only exercised their right to a legitimate defense of society, which does not favor or recognize terrorism, in order to protect society from all types of atrocities committed by terrorism, of which a long list of examples can be given.

During an interview which French television held with Allara in his office, he flatly denied that there is a neglect of human rights in Argentina, recalling the long tradition of defense of these rights in Argentina since its independence. He added that to understand the situation in Argentina at this time, other situations must be considered.

He said: "Argentina has suffered aggression from national and international terrorism, which is really responsible for establishing a policy which systematically and specifically violates human rights. He noted that our country is trying to overcome a difficult situation, both in the political and economic fields.

He indicated that despite the experiences which the country had to suffer because of the struggle against terrorism, the policy has been as honest and serious as the situation demanded.

Captain Allara said that the number of political prisoners in Argentina is approximately 3,000, and he maintained that the implementation of the state of siege determines specific situations for state security reasons. Regarding the action of the armed forces during the last 2 years, he stated that the armed forces were practically forced to assume the government in March 1976 because of the administrative chaos and disorder, which made their control imperative in order to guide the country along dignified and reasonable paths.

He emphasized: "President Videla never took any inhumane measure. The government is simply defending Argentine society from a systematically intended, aggressive and treacherous attack by national and international terrorism. Regarding this, there is no point in talking of humane or inhumane measures; it is simply a question of a right to defend our country, a right which is being fully exercised."

BRIEFS

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES BANNED--The Supreme Court of Justice has rejected an appeal by the Jehovah's Witnesses religious sect and upheld an executive branch decree prohibiting the sect's activities throughout Argentina. The prohibition is based on the fact that the sect is not registered as a non-Catholic religious group, as required by the constitution. Accompanying reports mentioned that the group has been denied registration as a non-Catholic religious group since 1950. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2030 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY]

SANTA CRUZ DEMOCRATIC FRONT--A democratic unit front has been formed in Santa Cruz Department. The Movement of the Revolutionary Left, which is taking part in this reorganization, disclosed that the front would be of a regional nature, designed to defend the interests and the rights of the Bolivian popular movement and in opposition to the government. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY]

PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIES--Three new officials, directly responsible to President Banzer, were sworn in yesterday. They are Alcira Espinoza de Villega as secretary general of the presidency; (Jaime Mendoza) as press and information secretary, and (Rodolfo Arteaga), also as secretary general of the presidency. [Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY]

VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR DEPARTS--The Venezuelan ambassador to Argentina, Ernesto Santander, today visited President Jorge Rafael Videla to bid him farewell upon the completion of his mission here. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY]

PEREDA ISSUES STATEMENT ON REJECTION BY FSB

PY151801Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] A statement released by Gen Juan Pereda Asbun to the public states:

"Because of the political conditions prevailing at the time when I accepted the presidential candidacy, I have been conducting talks with the political parties which belong to the nationalist revolutionary current. The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] is among the parties I have talked with.

"That party proposed as a condition 40 percent of government power plus the vice presidency for Mario Gutierrez Gutierrez. The proposal was later modified to 35 percent and the vice presidency, a proposal which led to a preliminary consultation with the peasant class, since my candidacy is based on the aspirations of the majority sectors of the nation."

The report further states that the FSB criticized the consultation with the peasants, particularly the discussion of Mario Gutierrez' candidacy for the vice presidency.

General Pereda Asbun concludes by saying that his is a nationalist and popular candidacy.

SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVES AIR GRIEVANCES IN LA PAZ

PY151210Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Representatives of the southern civic bloc, who arrived in La Paz to search for a solution to the problems which caused the work stoppage in the Chuquisaca, Potosi and Tarija departments and the new threat of a 24-hour strike, today spoke with government authorities.

Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo held long talks with his colleagues from the Transportation and Communications and Public Health ministries, and representatives from other state secretariats. They analyzed the problems put forth by the southern bloc members concerning airport construction, medical centers and technical medical care. It was disclosed that the government is favorably inclined to search for solutions for the needs of the country's southern inhabitants.

MNR SAYS PAZ ESTENSSORO PLANS TO RETURN SOON

PY151725Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 15 Feb--It was reported here today that three-time president of Bolivia Victor Paz Estenssoro will soon return to the country. This report was delivered to the press by the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], whose leaders claim that they had received a letter from Paz Estenssoro in this regard. Paz Estenssoro is now in the United States.

BANZER CLAIMS GOVERNMENTAL REFORM ON COURSE

PY151835Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Feb 78 pp 1, 9 PY

[Excerpt] The armed forces government "has not lost its course" or its "ideological compass," maintained Gen Hugo Banzer yesterday when he made an appraisal of the country's present political situation in a long speech, given in celebration of Oruro's civic anniversary.

He defended the constitutionalization plans of the government and repeated his appeal for "a new political style" in the electoral process the country has begun which will lead to the 9 July elections.

In his speech in homage of Oruro the president combined a detailed description of investments to be made by the government in that department (750 million Bolivian pesos, he said) with political thoughts regarding the latest events.

General Banzer said: "This is the last time I will appear, on this historic date before the glorious people of Oruro, as president of the Bolivians and I see with deep satisfaction that the armed forces government has fulfilled its commitments to the fatherland and to the role bestowed upon it by history."

He defended the measures taken by his government toward constitutionalization and stressed: "We have not lost our course, as some people believe. We know where we are going and by what road. We have ideological compasses of proven and recognized effectiveness. We are not experimenting with new hypotheses or performing ideological alchemy. We know what we want and what we must do to reach the goals we have set."

He maintained that the regime has "known how to persist when it has been right and to correct its mistakes. We have known how to correct and amend when this has been needed and to assert and insist when that has been necessary."

Referring to the electoral process he said: "During the present it has been decided, with the consent and support of most sectors of the nation, to implement the constitutionalization of the country for a fundamental purpose: that of obtaining a greater participation by the people in the decisions and in the elections of their rulers and representatives." He emphasized that the development the country in the last few years should result in the "political development on a higher plane than now." The president added: "We are convinced that if we reach a higher political development we will be able to set new goals and have the ability to reach them. Political development should, however, be conceived on wholly civilized bases, so that ideas and proposals stress national concord and unity, and dialogs will be used to express them. The people demand a new style in political action."

JOURNALIST COMMENTS ON RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

PY151305Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] "I leave without bitterness or hate, but firm in my principles of democratic rights, human rights and freedom of the press."

These were the first words of journalist Ivan Paz Claros after being freed along with 11 other political prisoners.

Ivan Paz, a former militant of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] and leader of the press union, was imprisoned in this country for 2 years. He also spent 3 years in exile and 2 and 1/2 years in hiding. "Neither physical nor psychological torture has discouraged us from the struggle for social justice," according to his first statements made to the press.

The 12 political prisoners, which included the journalists Ivan Paz and Antonio Peredo, also thanked the hunger strikers who succeeded in obtaining the general amnesty which provided them their freedom. The freed prisoners added: "We are aware that it is not a crime to dissent from this government's policies. The representatives of the judicial branch correctly applied the country's constitutional laws and rights," and justice."

In their appeal before the courts, lawyers for the prisoners argued that the trial against the prisoners was not based on any specific charges since the reason for their arrest was political. They could not be found guilty of any crime since disagreement with the government is a legitimate right and not a crime. The judges understood exactly this, and decided that the 12 prisoners could be included in the general amnesty ordered by the government. As a result there was no legal reason to continue the suit against them.

Upon leaving the San Pedro Prison, the freed prisoners had an emotional reunion with their families and friends. They said their determination to struggle for better living conditions for workers and peasants has not changed.

FOUR POLITICAL PRISONERS FREED BY COURT

PY141758Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1453 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb--It was reported here today that four political prisoners were freed by court order yesterday. The prisoners had been handed over to the courts by the government. The liberated prisoners are Edwin Guachalla, Edwin Espinoza, Edmir Espinoza and Eustaqui Mena.

There are still eight persons, detained 2 years ago by political police on charges of terrorism and antigovernment activities, who are under the jurisdiction of the regular courts. Among those still under arrest are Antonio Peredo, brother of the missing "Coco" and "Inti" Peredo, who fought together with "Che" Guevara during the 1967 guerrilla battles.

CHILEAN EMBASSY RECEIVES BOGUS BOMB THREAT

PY151159Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] At noon today, police were called to the Chilean Embassy located on Arce Avenue, La Paz. An unidentified person warned that an explosive device had been placed at the embassy. A so-called nationalist commando called some of the city's newspapers to warn of the bomb at the Chilean Chancery. After police arrived at the site, it proved to be only a false alarm. Only then did calm return to the Andean nation's embassy, where officials endured fearful and tense moments. The incident took place on the day that Bolivia commemorates the 99th anniversary of the Chilean invasion of Antofagasta port.

PARAGUAY'S NOGUES MEETS WITH GEISEL, AZEREDO

PY151739Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0155 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 14 Feb--Brazilian-Paraguayan relations seem to have been strengthened today following the cordial, open and constructive dialog between Foreign Ministers Azeredo da Silveira and Alberto Nogues. Nogues and Azeredo da Silveira first met privately and later met for a working session for a total of almost 4 hours.

At the end of the meetings, Luis Lampreia said that the two ministers had expressed their decision to attend the next trilateral meeting with a spirit of understanding and good will. Lampreia also said that Nogues will contact Argentina to determine the date for the next trilateral meeting to take place in Asuncion, "probably after Azeredo da Silveira's trip to the FRG." Lampreia said that Azeredo da Silveira awaits with "great tranquillity" the outcome of that meeting, which may resolve the misunderstanding over the hydroelectric plants on the Parana River. Lampreia said that the talks between Azeredo da Silveira and Nogues solved previous misunderstandings. The dialog between the two was "cordial, open and constructive."

The meeting produced three notes which will be signed tomorrow: One deals with the sovereignty of 67 islands on the Paraguay River; another "reflects the cordial atmosphere and reports on the decision to install tomorrow the joint cooperation and coordination commission which is an instrument for consultation, "open consultation because there are no secrets between two friendly countries," Lampreia said; and the third note commits EMBRATEL to represent ANTELCO of Paraguay at the INTELSAT. Nogues met for almost 1 hour with President Geisel, but no official report was released on the subjects discussed, although official sources said that in addition to presenting protocol greetings Nogues briefed President Geisel on the Paraguayan position on international matters on this continent.

Lampreia said that Nogues also discussed with Azeredo da Silveira several subjects such as the construction of Itaipu, the world's largest hydroelectric plant, and that "both were pleased with the project's progress in complete normality." The signing of the bilateral notes is scheduled for early tomorrow afternoon and a press conference will follow.

Nogues will return to his country at about 1600.

PRISONERS PRESENT TORTURE CLAIMS IN LETTER

PY152003Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Feb 78 p 8 PY

[Summary] Sao Paulo--Twenty-two prisoners held in Sao Paulo political prison, a federal military court prison, have sent a letter to the president of the Brazilian Lawyers Guild and to the Federal Council of the OAS Brazilian Bar Association, dated 12 December 1977. The 18-page letter presents what it says is proof of violations of the prisoners' rights.

The prisoners say they were jailed as long ago as 1969 and as recently as 16 December 1976, after being kidnaped from their homes, dragged into police and military torture chambers and subjected to physical violence.

They say a previous letter, published in the press in October 1975, was completely ignored except for increased reprisals, including anonymous threats against them in prison.

The letter asserts: To provide for more trustworthy justice, the regime used as judges military officers who had been directly involved in torture. Capt Roberto Pontuschka Filho, the torturer of [?Ordan] in 1969 and 1970, was involved in case No 207/69 in Sao Paulo. Capt Mauricio Lopes Lima, chief of a search team and director of interrogation for the 2d Army's Department of Domestic Operations-Internal Defense Coperations Center in 1969 and 1970, was involved in case No 1-234/77.

In addition to the victims of police brutality named in the 1975 letter, the prisoners mention: journalist Wladimir Herzog and worker Mandel Fiel Filho, killed in the torture chambers of the 2d Army; Feliciano Eugenio Neto, who died at the Sao Paulo clinic hospital from injuries received during torture; and Pedro Ventura Felippe de Araujo Pomar, Angelo Arroio and Joao Batista Franco Drummond, murdered in joint actions by the and 2d Armies after October 1975.

Torture cases mentioned in the letter include that of a 64 year-old woman held incommunicado and naked in solitary confinement for 48 days, without access to basic items of hygiene; of Francisco Carlos de Andrade, who suffered a detached retina during interrogation, which security authorities refused to allow to be corrected by surgery; and of Hilario Goncalves Pinha, who underwent surgery for a ruptured intestine after torture by the Rio Grande do Sul DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order].

Mistreatment of relatives, interrogation under duress, and preparation of witnesses, as well as slow trial proceedings and threats from the bench against defense lawyers, are also cited by the prisoners.

The letter is signed by Aldo da Silva Arantes, Altino Rodriguez Dantas Junior, Antonio Andre Camargo Guerra, Antonio Pinheiro Salles, Ariston Liveira Lucena, Aton Fon Filha, Diogenes Sobrosa de Souza, Franciso Gomes da Silva, Gregorio Mendonca, Haraldo Borges Rodrigues Lima, Hilario Goncalves Pinha, Joaquim Celso de Lima, Jose Carlos Giannini, Jose Milton Ferreira de Almeida, Luiz Vergatti, Manoel Cyrillo de Oliveira Netto, Marco Antonio Tavares Coelho, Ney Jansen Ferreira Junior, Oswaldo Pacheco da Silva, Paulo Walter Radke, Pedra de Camargo and Wladimir Vetura Torres Pomar. OAB President Raimundo Faoro confirmed receipt of the letter but declined to comment on his future action.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF CHURCH MOVEMENT NOTED

PY152015Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Feb 78 p 2 PY

["Castello's Column" by Marcos Sa Correa: "Communities and Politicians"]

[Text] Politicians returning from the first plunges into the electorate during the recess on the eve of campaigning, are bringing to light the phenomenom of a church grassroots movement. The establishment of these communities, organized around lay advisers which divide the dioceses' pastoral work by neighborhood and class associations, is not completely new in itself. What is new and surprising is the extent and consistency they have acquired since the last elections. They already total a few thousand groups. In regions like the Sao Paulo ABC, [Sao Paulo Industrial Region] they have become the most active, modern, and efficient instrument for channeling public opinion. At least one of them issues a weekly bulletin with 60,000 copies. [paragraph continues]

In the northeast and the Amazon, they have resulted in spontaneous popular parliaments which put into practice a democratic experience similar to that of Jean Jacques Rousseau in the Basque city of Guernica. In the city of Calacado in the Pernambuco backwoods, the mayor renders account of his administration to the community even before dealing with the chamber of councilmen. In Acre, land grabbing problems are taken before the church since it is useless to take them before the authorities.

There are uncounted examples of their influence. In Rio de Janeiro, the electoral leadership in rural area municipalities is being taken over by the leaders of these movements. In Trajano de Moraes, one of the state's poorest areas, with an annual budget which is not even enough to buy a seafront apartment in Rio de Janeiro's southern zone, this transfer of power is an accomplished fact. In the Parana North, an MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] mayor agreed to submit his jurisdiction's program to the community. They are fragmented parts of the nation's reality which are only now surfacing in political life, where they are devouring the country's fragile political organizations with their unions molded in the ways of the new state.

Any ideological distrust of the grassroots movement is useless. They do not necessarily have any ideological color or texture, nor even party commitments. They are spreading thanks to ecclesiastical guidance geared to unite the church's faithful. Within their roots there are established norms to teach the catechism. Today, to be the godfather of a wedding or baptismal ceremony you need to have a certificate from one of the parish's religious instruction courses. These courses end by calling together the communities, which then consider each diocese's recommendations and adopt the activities which that region's conditions demand. In the Sao Paulo industrial belt, the movement is involved with workers more than anyone else. They support it, like it or not, homesteading conflicts in Araguaia.

These differences do not change the fact that while a fraternal campaign is being launched all over Brazil, with a week to protest against social injustices and the problems of Brazilian workers, the church's social actions cannot show how much it has changed since the times when its initiatives were limited to Sunday sermons. The campaign which began this week is of political consequence. It precedes what the ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] or the MDB will do when the electoral calendar allows. It is also broader and non-partisan.

It is that natural talent for social organization which politicians are courting when they talk about taking advantage of winds favorable to political reorganization in order to reestablish the Christian Democratic Party in Brazil. They think they will acquire a readymade structure and place it at the service of their vote-seeking. They are wasting their time, because there are no indications that the movement is available to party politics, or that it could be integrated into a political platform even if it had such an intention, because it was created without aspiring to that uniformity.

With its autonomy, variety and expressiveness, the church's grassroots movement could be a more powerful influence on the inclinations of the electorate than the government which, because it considered the movement immature and inefficient, relegated it to the primitiveness of the Falcao Law. In the communities, they debate issues of collective interest beginning with the neighborhood, go on to labor problems, and end up discussing national affairs in a pronounced manner that ARENA, while flaunting its thousands of municipal directors, never dreamed of doing, and with which the MDB could never have even the slightest hope of competing.

CABINET DISCUSSES PROGRAMS THROUGH MARCH 1979

PY160143Y Brazil Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] President Geisel presided over a cabinet meeting held today at Planalto Palace to define the action to be implemented by the government during the remainder of this administrative term. The meeting, which began at 1100 and ended at 1300, was attended by all ministers and by Vice President Adalberto Pereira dos Santos. Geisel opened the meeting by outlining the main guidelines to be observed until 15 March 1979, when he will turn the government over to his successor. Later, Minister Reis Velloso defined the basic guidelines to be followed in the economic sector and Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen discussed the program designed to fight inflation and to bring the balance of payments to a point of equilibrium. The other ministers also reviewed the prospects opened in their respective areas until March 1979.

After the meeting, the presidential press adviser released an official note which first of all regards 1978 as a year of great political significance, and states that this meeting was designed to emphasize the government's decision to continue (?its actions) primarily in the economic, social and foreign policy sectors during the remainder of this term, without slowing down its pace. The note states that in its guidelines and priorities for 1978, the government has defined the economic objectives for this year, with moderate, realistic optimism. A larger surplus in the trade balance is a major objective to make the GDP expand and grow at a rate similar to that obtained in 1977. The government's action (?in this period) will be centered on completing certain basic tasks, primarily those related to the fundamental goal of leaving the country in March 1979 in a much better condition to face the international crisis. It adds that new initiatives will only be authorized in special cases, if these initiatives are highly significant.

The basic guidelines to be followed in the socioeconomic sector were outlined as follows: Pursuant to the strategy adopted, the country is seeking to reduce its dependency on the annual flow of foreign savings since foreign investments have sharply increased in Brazil since the petroleum crisis. Investment programs [word indistinct] will be implemented, taking into account the priorities established in the economic sector, primarily on petroleum, steel, fertilizers and other basic inputs and mining and export projects. Projects approved in this area for this year will require a 258.6-billion-cruzeiro investment in various sectors. The government will continue to support actively the building up of capital by private enterprises and the strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises. The funds earmarked by the National Economic Development Bank for (PROCAP) and (FINAC) [not further identified] and their subsidiaries will double in relation to that of 1977, and will reach 11 billion cruzeiros in 1978. The government will continue to further its actions in the social sector. In this sector, the budget earmarks 454 billion cruzeiros for expenditures, a 38-percent increase in relation to that of last year, which amounted to 330 billion cruzeiros. In 1977, the social budget already represented the record level of 14 percent of the GDP, compared to 12 percent reached in 1975 and 1976.

Finally, the note stresses the federal government's increased support for the northeast and the Amazonia. In the northeast, FINOR [Northeast Investment Fund] will have nearly 13.5 billion cruzeiros for special programs and federal allocations to states and municipalities will amount to 20 billion cruzeiros. This means a 57-percent increase in relation to that of 1977. Funds earmarked for Amazonia through FINAM [Presummably Amazonia Investment Fund] and [name indistinct] will amount to 4.95 billion cruzeiros, and federal allocations will amount to 5.45 billion cruzeiros. In relation to that of 1977, which amounted to 7.24 million cruzeiros [as heard] there was a 43.6-percent increase.

CARVAJAL REPORTS PROGRESS IN BORDER TALKS

PY160134Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal has reaffirmed that Presidents Pinochet and Videla will probably hold a meeting next week. He also said that he believes that "a just and equitable solution must be achieved during the present year" about the border dispute with Argentina in the southern region.

He also rejected the possibility that "a total solution will be achieved immediately and discussed the negotiations which the Argentine and Chilean military missions will start today in Buenos Aires.

Carvajal made this statement in a Santiago television program, noting that his feeling about the bilateral negotiations "has not changed," that is, Chileans "must be calm and maintain our position that we are defending a just cause...based on rights."

He explained that: "The talks we are holding show that we are making progress, and this in turn shows that there is good will on both sides."

He noted that the military meeting which starts today is the result of the meeting which President Pinochet held in Punta Arenas on Sunday with Colonel Lami Dozo.

Regarding the military commission which starts meeting in Buenos Aires today, Carvajal added that the date of the next presidential meeting has not yet been established, but he noted that the two presidents must hold a meeting on this agreement."

Carvajal added that Presidents Pinochet and Videla must hold a meeting in Chilean territory "probably next week, if everything discussed in the meeting goes well, as we hope it will."

He explained that a declaration which will be signed by the two presidents and a program of activities to be developed by the two commissions, one of which will reportedly strive to achieve "detente" between the two countries, will emerge from the document which the military commission is now studying.

"Once these measures of detente have been established, there is a second stage to be discussed. This stage involves negotiations regarding the demarkation of Argentine and Chilean maritime jurisdiction in the southern territory.

He said that the negotiations carried out by Lami Dozo were positive, and he added that "there are still some small differences that must be settled, but I am sure that the commissions meeting in Buenos Aires will be able to achieve a complete agreement."

Finally he said: "We believe that a just and equitable solution must be achieved during this year and that this solution must be in agreement with the traditional friendship which has always linked the two countries."

ARGENTINE PAPER INTERVIEWS VELASCO IBARRA

PY151255Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Feb 78 p 3 PY

[Text] "Can a republican of honor agree to be candidate for president on the basis of a constitution born from fraud and with the approval of illiterates? This would be a mockery of the country." With these remarks, Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra confirmed his refusal--already stated on other occasions--to become a candidate in the forthcoming elections to be held in July by the military junta which governs the country.

Velasco Ibarra was five times president of Ecuador, but only once did he complete a full term. He was overthrown for the last time in 1972 and has been living in Argentina ever since. He added: "If I return, or if there is a revolution, when I deliver my first speech I will end up in Colombia. I am already 85 years of age. No sir, I am not going to do it."

Velasco Ibarra, a rare combination of a noble Spaniard and a convinced democrat, towering, lucid, passionate, with 85 years and more than half a century of intense political activity, is at this stage a legend in himself.

He explained: "A democratic and representative democracy must have a national constitution to establish the responsibilities and the powers of the president, the congress, the judicial branch and the rights of the citizens. There cannot be a democratic and representative government without it. This constitution must be born from a constituent assembly made up of persons who understand the matters which they are going to discuss. The 1853 Argentine constitution was somehow born from the 'foundations' made by Alberdi, but was discussed in constituent assemblies in Buenos Aires and Santa Fe. There have been 10 or 12 dictatorships in Ecuador and they have all ended by calling the people to elect a constituent assembly which will prepare a constitution."

[Question] What has happened now?

[Answer] The current military dictatorship did not want a constituent assembly. It did not want the sovereign people of Quito, Montalvo or Rocafuerte to call on a constituent assembly, because they are afraid they may be asked to explain certain economic aspects of their huge personal wealth linked to oil.

[Question] What was then done?

[Answer] The way out was a referendum in a country where many do not know how to read or write.

They appointed 10 or 12 of their friends to prepare a draft of the constitution and they appointed another similar group to write up another draft law. Later, the people were called upon to choose between one or the other. And after a campaign in support of the nullification of the vote--since even blank votes were considered positive votes--a decree was issued, which declared that even those persons who were not included on the ballot lists were eligible to vote. The result was that in some districts the number of voters surpassed and sometimes even doubled the number of persons enrolled on the ballot lists.

[Question] What do you believe is the purpose of the referendum and the convocation of elections?

[Answer] Carlos Cornejo Orbe, one of those who lead the campaign to nullify the vote, said quite well that the objective of this was to prepare a conflicting political framework with the purpose of assuring a continuity of the military government, in any case, because there is still a lot of oil to be exploited. That is, the objective of the military is to continue governing through anyone of their own choice.

[Question] What do you believe could be a political opening for the present political situation of your country?

[Answer] Popular revolution. The military must return to their barracks, to their specific function of defending the borders, the people and the constitutional assembly. If there is a true popular insurrection, then the military would be able to do many things for the people. As a matter of fact, there are many honest people within the military, many who disagree with the situation, who are tired of the many irregularities which are carried out and of the great fortunes which are being made at the expense of others.

[Question] In view of your characterization of the present political situation in Ecuador, why do you believe your followers insist on your return?

[Answer] I see in this a certain psychological mechanism. I am very popular in my country, and my presence there would be like an instigation. It would lead to a popular upheaval [vibracion popular] in a still passive and lethargic country. And in this regard, it is not true, as has been reported, that I have anything to do with populism [populismo]. I never resorted to gracious concessions. I am popular because since my youth and using my own means I struggled for electoral freedoms, a neutral and secular [laico] state, an honest administration and the realization of necessary public works. I have governed with the aim of giving more freedom and justice to the people. I started from deeds and not from books as ideologues do. The fact that I said that I struggle for social justice does not mean that I will expropriate land from the owners, because instead of achieving social justice I would be achieving massive hunger, but it does mean that I will demand payment of taxes.

[Question] What do you think about the replacement of Alfonso Arroya Robelly by Juan Carlos Faisutti as head of the Velasquist movement?

[Answer] I believe it is quite good and I approve it wholeheartedly. Robelly created deep divisions within the Velasquist movement. He is a very unpopular person. When I had him as education minister he created a series of conflicts among the teachers and students as well; later, when he was minister of production, he failed to handle the task of the oil contracts in the Gulf of Guayaquil, something which was specifically required of him.

[Question] How do you see Latin America today?

[Answer] I believe that Latin America is called upon to fulfill its duty in the international concept of nations. We are Latin Americans; we know that men are human beings with rights and powers. Our countries fought for freedom, and it is their duty to continue fighting for it and to enfore an economic, technical and cultural cooperation to be able to strengthen this Latin American spirit. There is still a lot of fighting to be done. There are Russia and Africa which are coming after us. There is a lot of fighting to do and the world is getting crazier and crazier every day.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS OF ELECTION RELEASED

PY151622Y Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 15 Feb 78 p 1 PY

[Text] After an arduous vote-counting effort which was finished late yesterday afternoon, an unofficial report was released on what reportedly is the final general results of the 12 February elections.

A total of 1,175,341 citizens were enrolled, and the ballots were reportedly cast as follows: [total as published]

Colorado Party	903,053	89 percent and a fraction
Radical Liberal Party	52,638	5 percent and a fraction
Liberal Party	36,235	3 percent and a fraction
Void ballots	12,795	1 percent and a fraction
Total of voters	1,000,721	85 percent and a fraction
Abstentions	170,620	14 percent and a fraction

Probable distribution of seats in Congress (Article 8, Law No 600)

Chamber of Senators:

Colorado Party	20 seats
Radical Liberal Party	6 seats
Liberal Party	4 seats
Total	30 senators

Chamber of Deputies:

Colorado Party	40 seats
Radical Liberal Party	12 seats
Liberal Party	8 seats
Total	60 deputies

PPC COMMENTS ON ARMED FORCES, RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PA160101Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1632 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 Feb (AFP)--Luis Bedoya, leader of the Popular Christian Party of Peru [PPC], said yesterday evening in Tacna, in the country's south, that his party will fight the armed forces if they want to govern against the will of the people. Bedoya is a former mayor of Lima. In opening his campaign for the constituent elections of June, the political leader stated that Peru's foreign policy must be based on good relations "with our neighbors and with sister countries in the continent." He said that only the armed forces have weapons, a force and power to be used for the defense of constitutional order and of the borders, and "not to obtain political power and even less to oppress the people and remain in power against the will of the people." He added: "In the same way that we fight pressure groups that are trying to decide the future of the nation against the will of the people, we will also confront our own armed forces if they want to become a sector that uses pressure to govern Peru against the will of the Peruvian people."

After stating that his party wants a de jure state in Peru, he noted that the country's foreign policy must be based on republican principles "without getting lost in the absurdity of Third World ideologies."

Apparently referring to Peruvian-Chilean relations, Bedoya said that "at very precarious moments" there is no room for "I decorate you and you decorate me or I visit you and you visit me" policies when "we both know that we are arming ourselves while saying that we are doing so to replace obsolete equipment."

PRESIDENT HAILS RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PA160423Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 Feb--President Francisco Morales Bermudez stressed the cordial state of relations between Peru and Czechoslovakia today when he received here the credentials of Stanislav Novotny, the new Czechoslovak ambassador to this country. Bermudez said that his government is pleased with the trade between the two countries and hopes it will increase. He also stressed the similarity in the position of the two countries regarding disarmament, the struggle against racial discrimination and decolonization.

The Czechoslovak diplomat said he hopes to increase cooperation with Peru in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields, adding that his country looks favorably on the Peruvian Government's efforts to develop the country.

The presentation of credentials took place today at Government Palace. Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente was also present.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DISMANTLING OF SINAMOS

PA151815Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0406 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 14 Feb (AFP)--The much discussed National System for Support to Social Mobilization (SINAMOS) will be completely dismantled by 31 August 1978, it was officially announced here today. Reports to this effect released by some members of the government were confirmed today in a cabinet decree. As a reporter of public works and community organization in shanty towns and supervisor of cooperatives, the multiple functions of SINAMOS will be distributed among various ministries.

Created by the late Gen Juan Velasco as a nonpartisan organization in charge of promoting the people's support for the regime, SINAMOS carried out activities in many fields, which brought about a reaction from competing political and social organizations.

The decree says that the dismantling of SINAMOS will be carried out according to a methodical and progressive plan and that some of its specific aims and objectives will be maintained on a regional administrative basis because of their socioeconomic importance and repercussion. The Housing and Construction Ministry will be in charge of new towns (emergency dwellings) and local organizations. The supervision of cooperatives will be entrusted to several ministries according to the activities they perform, the decree establishes. SINAMOS personnel will be transferred to other state agencies.

BUSINESSES OFFER TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT

PA151947Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p 1 PA

[Excerpt] Thirty thousand firms which are members of the 60 chambers of commerce in Peru yesterday agreed to offer the government their broadest possible cooperation to contribute to overcoming the present financial and economic crisis.

Augusto Ramos Bambaren, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce (FEDECAM), delivered the agreement to President Gen Francisco Moralez Bermudez during an interview in the Government Palace which lasted about 1 hour.

Ramos Bambaren said that private business can play an important role in the common effort of helping the country's economy to recover as soon as possible. He added that the crisis might be overcome with the participation of everyone in 2 years. He explained that the support offered the government was extended "without requiring anything in exchange," emphasizing the importance of the dialogs and meetings between the government and the governed.

In a press conference during which he commented on his meeting with Morales Bermudez, the FEDECAM president said that several suggestions had been made at the palace by the organization relative to economic policy problems.

APRISTAS, OTHER PARTY MEET ELECTORAL REQUIREMENTS

PY151636Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The National Electoral Board yesterday approved the provisional inscription of the Peruvian Democratic Movement and of the Aprista Party of Peru. The 10-day deadline is still in effect, however, for the presentation of any objections which might exist against the National Workers Front and against the Christian Democratic Party. The Popular Action is the only party officially inscribed so far.

A reliable source of the National Electoral Board said that within the next few days it will be confirmed whether the Peruvian Communist Party and the Popular Christian Party have succeeded in presenting their lists of more than 40,000 signature of sympathizers required by law, in order to be equally recognized on a provisional basis. The purge and comparison of signatures presented on the lists by the Socialist Revolutionary Party, the National Union, the Peruvian (?Reformist) Democratic Party and the Worker-Peasant Student Front will be made afterwards.

VADORA SPEECH COMMEMORATES MILITARY TAKEOVER

PY101227Y Montevideo Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 9 Feb 78 PY

[Speech by retiring Gen Julio Cesar Vadora during ceremony in his honor and on fifth anniversary of armed forces takeover of government in Montevideo--live]

[Excerpts] Earlier, I referred to my 40 years in the army. On this fifth anniversary, I believe it is very important to emphasize the meaning of the active participation of the armed forces in the life of the nation. When it took over it was with the purpose of stopping the fast moral and material deterioration of the country, of recovering values which were very dear to the real feelings of the citizens and soldiers of the nation and of giving impetus to the country's overall potential on the path of development aimed at securing the future individual and collective welfare. Totalitarianism of a Marxist or any other nature, with its evil forms of pressure, should know that we will never abandon our fight to preserve our democratic, republican, nationalistic and communitarian lifestyle, a system which offers the maximum guarantee of respect for human values, where individuals will find their dignity better protected. I repeat that we are not retreating from this struggle. No Uruguayan with a sense of country, honor and freedom will ever abandon this fight.

This is a clear expression of a natural rejection of subversive action in all its forms. This is an all-out struggle. The slanders, attacking persons and institutions, will continue. They are sponsored inside and outside the country by those who lack the minimum moral values to accept their responsibility for the outrageous dilapidation of the national patrimony, many times due to complicity with foreign ideas or due to their excessive personal ambition.

The stages of the process will be fulfilled without fail. The honor of the army and the armed forces is committed to this fulfillment. The armed forces have remained far above personal desires. Another proof of this feeling is the transfer of officers which has taken place and which will continue to take place in accordance with the law, giving way to [words indistinct] and the participation of the young to continue the great struggle for development, peace and justice among brothers, not only for the benefit of the great Uruguayan family but for all the Americas.

Those governments, international institutions and even lone individuals which have become representatives and even spokesmen for evil antinational intentions, either by being indifferent, naive or biased, should know that Uruguayans do not violate human rights but that they preserve, promote and defend them and are willing to share them with those who come to our country with honest intentions.

It is precisely the Uruguayan armed forces which promote brotherhood and close union with their brothers, with their brothers of the free world and particularly with their brothers of oppressed societies, with the idea not to create or promote hatred. They are also aware, as I have said on other occasions, that this union will be maintained if we do not make the mistake of forgetting past uncorrected errors.

Just as I put all my efforts in fulfilling my commitments with my fellow citizens and comrades of arms when I carried out the complex jobs entrusted to me, I feel it is my duty, now from retirement, to address the various sectors of my people again with the same principle of patriotism, without the official limitations imposed before, regarding the economic, political and social areas of the country.

With regard to the labor sector, it is not necessary to exalt it because we are all aware of its sacrifices, hardships and hard work, resulting in benefits which come very slowly. The government knows of its struggle and its hardships have been our permanent incentive for accelerating the process. Private business activities have the assurances of flexible, pluralist and liberal economic policies but with just limitations in the interest of the public and of the working sector which supports them.

Those men who honestly and voluntarily wish to replace us in the leadership of the national cause through future healthy political activity will find that by strictly following the proposed objectives they will be able to directly take part, but with the obligation to understand now that they must wish only to govern and not to obtain personal power, to lead and not to impose arbitrary or capricious guidelines, to perform with honesty and in view of the people rather than [words indistinct] personalist practices or isolated corrupt commitments.

BRIEFS

PERSIAN GULF TRADE MISSION--A trade mission of the countries on the Persian Gulf has made an offer to buy 800,000 meters of textiles worth over $2 million. The visitors will probably firm up the purchase of frozen meat also. They will continue their talks with textile and leather industrialists. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 78 FY]

FRG LOAN--An FRG Government official left Uruguay after offering a DM57-million loan to be used for the development of small and medium-sized industries and fishing programs. Officials from the Economy Ministry and the Planning Office are studying the conditions offered by the FRG Government. This loan will also aid the industrial decentralization program, which is now in action. The FRG loan will be divided into two parts, the first consisting of DM9 million to be used in industrial programs, and the second of DM48 million for use in the development of fishing programs. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 78 FY]

ARMY APPOINTMENTS--Gen (Abdon Raimundez) has been appointed commander of the 4th Division. The army board of generals has also decided to appoint Col (Holmes Coitino) new military household chief, while Col (Ivan Poulovski) has been appointed director of the Military Institute of Higher Studies. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 78 FY]

PRESUMED U.S. SATELLITE FALLS IN TACHIRA STATE

PA152229Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] A satellite has fallen near the town of Pregonero, [name indistinct] district, in Tachira State. The object entered Venezuelan skies and descended on a parachute. The people of Pregonero went to see the strange descending object, and finally located it. It is an object with a long antenna that can be moved by two men with many cables and a motor. It has U.S. Air Force markings and a rubber protector and could possibly be a meteorological satellite. The Venezuelan Air Force has gone to the town of Pregonero, Tachira State, to investigate the object.

TRANSPORT MINISTER MEETS SPANISH COMMERCE MINISTER

PA151609Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Transport and Communications Minister Jesus Enrique Vivas Casanova has received in his office Spanish Commerce and Tourism Minister Juan Antonio Garcia Diez. During the meeting the two ministers discussed various subjects related to transportation, communications and the railroad plans of the national government. Minister Garcia was accompanied by Spanish Ambassador to Venezuela Juan Castillo, Industry Deputy Secretary Manuel de Vicente, Commerce General Director Javier de Robles and Jose Maria Jerez, the representative of Spain in the (Escaven) enterprise.

The two ministers said they were satisfied with the results of their talks and of the progress that may come about as a result of these talks in the immediate future.

GOVERNMENT MINISTERS DISCUSS OIL PRODUCTION DECREASE

PA151545Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Mines and Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta has noted that petroleum production has been quite low, but that this has not affected petroleum exports. He indicated that crude petroleum sales have been complemented with refined products from the indstury's large reserves. He added that the production level is about 1.9 million barrels daily. The situation is not one of an emergency, as these things happen and can be overcome, he said, adding that these petroleum production decreases are part of the market fluctuations and may be resolved as suddenly as they occurred.

All dangers of an abrupt revenue decrease have been overcome and everything is under control, said Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo. He said that the petroleum production decrease must not be automatically connected with a decrease in petroleum exports, which are what count for revenue purposes. The minister pointed out that the situation is being appraised objectively. He noted that the strategy to be followed is to collect overdue taxes from delinquent taxpayers, which should produce about 1.8 billion bolivares. He said an inheritance tax will be established which will produce 500 million bolivares.

The national government will not make an immediate revision of the national budget, the same minister revealed at the end of a cabinet meeting. He noted, however, that the executive branch will be on the alert to protect the nation's interests. Silva Luongo emphasized that much prudence, objectivity and realism are needed to handle the situation. He said the situation is under control and the petroleum question is being managed conscientiously.

Budget Problems Minimized

PA141715Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Mines and Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta has stated that the oil production decrease had been foreseen and should not cause concern because it was expected. He went on to point out that it is a normal situation within the oil business and explained that the cause for the oil production decrease is the arrival on the market of petroleum from the North Sea, Alaska and Mexico as well as the late winter season in the United States. He noted that the situation will improve during the course of this year.

The cabinet is going to hold a meeting today to study the oil production situation and its effects upon the revenue for this year's budget. This was revealed by a spokesman for the Mines and Energy Ministry, who added that the energy and finance ministers are expected to speak at the meeting. He said that the possibility of making some budget cuts should not be dismissed.

Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo is not concerned about the adjustments to be made to the national budget. He maintains that this position, despite an oil production decrease, had been foreseen for the present year. He indicated that among the alternatives contemplated to solve the problem is reducing some nonpriority expenditures. He said basic services and infrastructure programs will be retained and expressed the government's confidence and its determination to make delayed payments and to be able to cover national budget expenditures scheduled for specific dates.

VENEZUELA WILL SPEED UP URANIUM EXPLORATION PLANS

PA151906Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p A-1 PA

[Text] Venezuela will accelerate work this year on its uranium exploration plan, which calls for a detailed study of areas in which commercially exploitable deposits have been found.

A report issued by the Energy and Mines Ministry Department of Energy reveals that special attention continues to be given to the possibility that Venezuela will generate electric power with nuclear plants. The same report says that the National Council for the Development of Nuclear Industry (CONAN), working jointly with the Electrical Administration and Development Company (CADAFE) and in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Organization, drew up a study on nuclear-electric planning for Venezuela and purchased a gammacell-20 irradiation unit which was installed in the pilot center of nuclear research in Maracaibo for use in the program to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly and in the vegetable genetics programs.

The report adds that in uranium exploration, a study is being made of a uranium irregularity in Cojedes State and, with the assistance of the chemical institute of the Central University of Venezuela's school of sciences, CONAN has been obtaining small amounts of concentrated uranium (yellowcake) from Bolivar State. The report also says that in 1978 several studies will be made to develop the nuclear electric industry and the plan on uranium exploration will continue, which will include a detailed study of the areas of economic interest which have been found. The number of persons trained in nuclear technology and research will also be increased.

PRI DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN COSTA RICAN ELECTIONS

FL152233Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2057 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has been in power for over 4 decades, has flatly denied having intervened directly or indirectly in the Costa Rican presidential elections which took place a few days ago. News of intervention was disseminated by this capital's weekly PROCESO, which is managed by Julio Scherer Garcia.

The weekly's article begins with these words: "The PRI intervention in the Costa Rican electoral process seemingly limited to professional publicity guidance in support of the ruling National Liberation Party (PLN), but it went further. Along with its modern electoral publicity methods, it exported its old vices, corruption and purposely provided the political campaign of Jose Figueres' party with a personal envoy from Mexico to give advice."

The PRI press secretary hastened to call the aforementioned story "ridiculous" and "laughable." One of those mentioned by PROCESO as an adviser in the Costa Rican elections, Luis del Toro Calero, stated that "he has not even visited that beautiful Central American country."

For his part, the candidate "advised" by the PRI, Luis Alberto Monge, in statements made in San Jose, Costa Rica, admitted that he had lived in Mexico for 6 years, "but that to infer from this [action] incorrect interference by the PRI in the electoral campaign is so off target that only infamy could surpass it."

According to the weekly, the campaign of the ruling party candidate was carried out by a publicity firm owned by Mexican Manuel Alonso. It adds that officially, this individual does not have a publicity agency here, but that he held the position of PRI press secretary for the Federal District and deputy director of public relations for the presidency of the republic.

Scherer's magazine also points out that Jose Figueres' party also received publicity help from the Venezuelan Democratic Action party. The opposition candidate Rodrigo Carozo Odio from the United Party (Conservative) won the election.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ-PORTILLO TO VISIT ITALY

FL142151Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2125 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--According to an announcement by the "Aztec" ambassador to Italy, Augusto Gomez Villanueva, President Jose Lopez-Portillo will visit Italy on a date not yet determined. The diplomat also announced that in the next few days he will present his credentials as ambassador to Malta.

The meeting between Lopez-Portillo and the Italian President Giovanni Leone could serve to broaden Italian-Mexican commercial relations, keeping in mind that the trade balance between the two countries favored the European country by $41 million in 1976.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROTESTS U.S. SENATE CLOSED-DOOR SESSION

PA160419Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives Foreign Relations Committee today sent a protest note to the U.S. Congress regarding the Senate closed-door meeting to discuss matters unrelated to the Torrijos-Carter treaty which tend to discredit Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera in open disrespect of his status as a statesman. The cable is addressed to Senator John Sparkman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, and reads as follows: Senate closed-door session to discuss affairs unrelated Torrijos-Carter treaty offend national dignity and sovereignty. Tortuous paths slander revolutionary process, lower level of treaty discussions. In name Panamanian people express vigorous protest over despicable attitude some senators against national sovereignty. [cable format as heard]

Signed: Elias Castillo, chairman, National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee

DAVID SAMUDIO EXPLAINS ABSENCE FROM MEETING

PA160135Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Feb 78 p 1 PA

[Text] While commenting on a communique issued by the Christian Democratic Party criticizing him openly for not attending the "Coral Gables summit" with former President Arnulfo Arias, David Samudio, president of the Liberal Party [PL], said that "the decision first to attend and then not to attend was adopted by the PL's political committee.

Answering questions from our reporters, Samudio said that the PL had decided not to participate in the meeting because it could be interpreted as an attitude of rejection of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which during those days had been submitted to the Senate by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

According to Samudio, the PL acted "with honesty and patriotism when it recommended ratification of the treaties and could not participate at that particular time in a meeting with the leading opponents of the treaty."

"The PL continues to support ratification of the treaties and this is an attitude of patriotic responsibility," Samudio said. Adding that the communique issued by the PL in the wake of the meeting clearly explains the reasons why it decided not to attend the meeting with Arias in Florida.

Samudio said that this was not a personal decision of his but the result of an evaluation of the facts by the PL's political committee, which reached the conclusion that the meeting might be interpreted as opposition to the ratification of the treaties by the U.S. Senate, which at that time was preparing to adopt a final decision in that regard.

GOVERNMENT TO SET UP AGENCY FOR CANAL MATTERS

PA160103Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 15 Feb 78 p 7-b PA

[Jorge E. Ruiz article]

[Excerpts] "In the near future, a Panamanian Government agency will be established to reflect the official decisions and policies on the subject of the development and management of the canal and its metropolitan areas, as these are all closely connected."

This announcement was made Monday night by [Panamanian negotiator and Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification Director] Edwin Fabrega in a forum on what will we do with the zone and the canal sponsored by the University of Panama as part of its summer cultural program.

The first speaker was Edwin Fabrega, who presented a political view of the Canal Zone which he called "the little waist of the isthmus" in the metropolitan area.

He said that "perhaps because it is a little waist it is the most attractive, the richest, the most coveted by foreign powers, by multinational enterprises."

He referred to the canal and the Canal Zone as a part of our isthmus which neither we nor the North Americans have been able to make more use of, since the zone has legally been set aside for the transit of ships. This situation has led to a retarded development compared to how we would have liked it to develop.

Fabrega pointed out that 6 months after the ratification of the treaties and the exchange of notes between President Carter and General Torrijos, the treaties would be in force and that this was when Panama would assume jurisdiction; that is to say, the police, judges, license sections and so forth would pass into the hands of the Panamanian Government.

He added that after 30 months we would encounter more controversial matters. Finally, in the year 2,000, all the Canal Zone and the canal would revert totally to Panama.

On what is bring done for the time when our legal jurisdiction in the canal areas is exercised, Fabrega said: "We cannot say nothing has been done, that nothing has been studied, or that nothing is being prepared for managing that territory. Decisions have been taken. It is not ideal or perfect but a group of Panamanian professionals is working on this project."

It was then that he made the announcement that a government agency would be set up in the near future.

PANAMANIAN UNIONS TO STAY OUT OF ZONE WORK ACTION

PA160233Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Luis Anderson, president of Local 907 of the Canal Zone, has said that if the unions mainly composed of U.S. citizens carry out an action aimed at hindering the normal operation of the Panama Canal, the unions composed of Panamanians will go to work with greater devotion and will make efforts so that the positions of those who do not show up will be occupied by Panamanians as proof of our responsibility and efficiency.

Anderson's statements referred to the attempt by some groups to organize a strike in the Canal Zone. He added that the attempted strike is nothing but a political action against the new canal treaties since those who are organizing the strike have not made any specific proposal.

In the Canal Zone there are unions which are mostly composed of U.S. citizens, such as the electricians, equipment operators, and particularly, the lock operators and the pilots, who, though few in number, could paralyze the canal because of their specialized jobs.

Luis Anderson said: I do not see the way that a union action can be taken at this time because all union demands have to be made formally and must meet specific requirements so that they can reach the levels where they can be heard. With respect to the public demonstration that will be held at the [Canal Zone] administration building tomorrow, Anderson said that Locals 900 and 907 conposed of Panamanian workers of the canal will not participate as organizations, although he added that it is difficult to control workers who might want to attend individually to hear what is being said there. Anderson said that what policeman Bill Drummond is doing, along with a Mr Fateroni of the Central Labor Union, is open opposition to the new treaties. We are only interested in the preservation of jobs and on what will be done with other Panamanian workers. We question the real motives of the organizers of these strike movements, he added. Anderson also noted that the promoters of such disorders in the Canal Zone are those who want to perpetuate themselves in Panama and therefore they fear change. Anderson said: We will participate in a workers movement only if it seeks to make some demand before the canal administration in its role as management.

HEALTH MINISTER APPOINTED TORRIJOS' REPRESENTATIVE IN CHIRIQUI

PA131347Y Panama City DOMINICAL in Spanish 12 Feb 78 pp 1-a, 4-b PA

[By Jaime Enrique Beitia]

[Excerpts] Health Minister Dr Abraham Saied has been appointed Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera's permanent representative in Chiriqui Province. An announcement in this regard was made today, Saturday, by Agriculture Minister Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes during a special meeting held in Volcan, Chiriqui, at the Don Nico estate, which is owned by Juan Antonio Delgado. The meeting was attended by cattlemen, producers of coffee, rice and sugar cane, and representatives of private banking. Immediately after the announcement, Dr Saied said that his work will have great importance for the province and expressed hopes that all the people will cooperate for the country's progress. He added that as General Torrijos' representative in Chiriqui, he will seek to see that the old system of politicking does not develop or take hold; instead, he will seek unity and trust among all--that is, between the government and the people. On the basis of this trust, Saied said, we are going to strive to improve the entire structure of the province. Saied said that it is necessary to seek the means to give Chiriqui Province total stability and find other ways of preventing divisions among the people.

The announcement was made to over 200 persons from all the productive sectors of Chiriqui. The subject of the appointment of a new governor was not discussed at the meeting, nor was it announced who would replace Saied as health minister.

COSTA RICA

TERRORIST GROUP THREATENS TO ATTACK BUSINESSES

PA152358Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] A mysterious guerrilla group by the name of Garibaldi has threatened to plant terrorist bombs in several firms. The first firm threatened was the Fertica plant. Security forces are closely watching foreigners living in our country. It is suspected that at least one of them, who may belong to the extreme leftwing group, might be involved in the threats.

Security measures were intensified last night at the Fertica plant in Punta Arenas to prevent terrorist activity. The minister of public security reported that the threats have been sent not only to the Fertica firm but also to a number of large national firms in which foreign capital has been invested.

It was also reported that everyone can walk around freely inside the Fertica facilities. From now on, the use of certain papers that only the firm's management can issue will be required [to enter the facilities]. It was also reported that outsiders will not be allowed access to all areas.

Public Security Ministry sources have reported that the Garibaldi group has repeatedly issued this sort of threat since it flooded several public administration facilities with communiques announcing the possibility of terrorist bombings. The Garibaldi group, the identity of whose ringleaders is already suspected, is calling for greater concern by Costa Ricans over the fate of Nicaraguan citizens. It also contends that it is necessary to support any movement trying to topple President Somoza.

Public Security Ministry sources have reported that this time Minister Charpentier Gamboa himself received one of the latest communiques announcing the terrorist attack on the Fertica facilities in Barranca, Punta Arenas.

Official national security spokesmen have reported that surveillance has been intensified of foreign extremists who may be linked to Nicaraguan groups in order to determine any possible ties with the so-called Garibaldi group. As soon as the government finds out that those ties exist, no matter who the people in question are, the administration will seek their expulsion from Costa Rica.

Several political refugees are being carefully investigated. One of them was to report and sign a registrar every day. Two others have been taken to the southern part of the country. They, as well as all other political refugees, are still being followed to see if it can be ascertained where the Garibaldi group holds its meetings, thereby achieving its immediate and definitive elimination.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR U.S. CONFERENCE

PA152119Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1848 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero left this morning for New Orleans accompanied by his wife, Gloria, and an entourage of 59 persons including government officials and private business representatives.

Romero will be the main speaker tomorrow at the third annual Central American conference which will be attended by prominent government and business personalities in the Central American isthmus and the United States.

Romero was invited by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Terence Todman.

During Romero's 3-day absence, Vice President and Presidency Minister Julio Ernesto Astacio will be acting president.

GUATEMALA

MINISTER REJECTS FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT OF BELIZE ISSUE

PA160404Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2120 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Feb (AFP)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes stated here today that Guatemala will reject any British economic compensation to settle the conflict over Belize. The minister was referring to press reports in Great Britain to this effect.

The foreign minister said that Guatemala has requested no aid of any kind from that country and that the new round of negotiations on Belize will be held after the general elections scheduled for March.

Molina Orantes also reported that the British Government had apologized to the Guatemalan Government in connection with an incident that had occurred when British soldiers attacked a Guatemalan family in the Belizean locality of Punta Gorda.

MLN CANDIDATE WOULD GRANT AMNESTY TO GUERRILLAS

PA151936Y Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 8 Feb 78 pp 1, 15 PA

[Excerpt] Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia announced last night that if he is elected president he will grant amnesty to all guerrillas. He noted that in the past he granted amnesty to guerrillas of the 13 November movement and added that he would take drastic action against those guerrillas who did not return to a civilian and democratic life.

The presidential candidate for the National Liberation Movement (MLN) made these statements in a meeting with the press.

He said that when he was head of the military government he granted amnesty to those who rose up in arms in the self-styled 13 November Movement.

He asserted that help was given to those who accepted amnesty. Some of them worked in his government.

Peralta Azurdia pointed out that if he were elected president he would do the same: grant amnesty to guerrillas who accept it and deal with a "hard hand" with those who reject it.

Asked his opinion on the division of Belize in which Guatemala would be granted a small corridor to the sea, he answered that the constitution said that all of Belize is part of Guatemala and, consequently, there cannot be a territorial cession unless the constitution is first amended.

HONDURAS

UNC TO DEMONSTRATE IN HONOR OF DEAD MEMBERS

PA151826Y El Progreso Radio Progreso in Spanish 1230 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The National Union of Peasants [UNC] will stage several demonstrations in memory of several of its members who died at (La Tranquera). UNC Secretary General Marcial Euceda said that the demonstrations will be staged in Juticalpa, Tegucigalpa and Choluteca. The Juticalpa demonstration will take place on 18 February while the demonstrations in Tegucigalpa and Choluteca will be staged on 17 February.

A mass will also be said, probably in Juticalpa, to the memory of the peasants who died in the struggle to secure land for themselves and their children. Marcial Euceda said that the people's and trade union organizations will be invited to join the demonstration so that [words indistinct] what the idea is concerning the administration of justice in our country.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA TO MEET WITH LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS

PA151832Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1218 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Feb (LATIN)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza plans to hold a special meeting today with leaders of the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN] of which he is president. Since the national leadership of the PLN is only called to meet concerning questions of extreme importance (it rarely meets), there is much interest in political circles regarding the meeting's subject, which has been kept secret so far.

Somoza has called a meeting for tomorrow with leaders of mid-level PLN organizations such as the Somozist Liberal Youth, the feminine wing and Liberal Action to inform them of the national leadership's decisions.

Observers feel that Somoza is trying to organize his party to resist the pressure which has been growing against him since the murder of opposition newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. The Somoza regime is not only faced with pressure on the domestic front but also internationally by several organizations and governments, including the Venezuelan Government.

PSC PROTESTS FRENCH ARMS SALE

PA151616Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0120 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSC) today protested to the French ambassador a possible arms sale by France to the Nicaraguan Government. The PSC Executive Council, represented by Provisional President Adolfo Brenes Mejia and Secretary General Jose Esteban Gonzalez, state in their letter to Ambassador Abdelejid Kebaili that "Somoza has imposed on Nicaragua a public order based on shameful deals which is a masquerade of a republican and democratic regime, a system which France has been the noble standard bearer."

The PSC asks that the French Government, "in solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people, revoke or annul any contract, trade deal or any other agreement which directly or indirectly concerns a possible sale of arms or military equipment to General Somoza's regime."

Meanwhile, the Council for Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) in Washington has denounced the fact that the Nicaraguan Government is about to purchase military supplies from the French Government.

CASTRO INAUGURATES UNITS OF NEW THERMOELECTRIC PLANTS

FL152336Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2216 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at dedication ceremony for new power generation units at Maximo Gomez thermoelectric plant in Mariel, Havana Province, and 10 October thermoelectric plant in Nuevitas, Camaguey Province; dedication ceremony held at Maximo Gomez plant--live, also relayed by Havana television]

[Text] Comrades workers of Mariel: If it does not bore you, I can give some information of interest on this matter of electricity, which is very important.

When the revolution achieved victory in 1959, the electrical generating capacity of the Cuban electric company--those times are long gone--was 397 megawatts. You all know that in order to measure electrical power generating capacity, as well as the amount of electricity generated, has to be measured as well. When one says 397 megawatts, this means a capacity of 397,000 kilowatts. Over a year, this adds up to a lot.

That gives you an idea of the capacity we had. This was divided into two electrical systems which were not interconnected. This means that there could be too much electricity over there and none here, or too much here and none there. Thus, it could not be carried from one place to another to make the system more efficient.

There was a system from Pinar del Rio to Camaguey and another in the southern part of former Oriente Province. Almost all the equipment of the Cuban Electric Company, which of course was North American, came from the United States. At the beginning of the blockade, this made them think it was one of the most vulnerable factors of the revolution. They said to themselves: Those people will not have any lights. They believed that by impeding the supply of spare parts, they could bring about the paralysis of the entire electrical system.

All the projects, general studies of development, utilized technology, service demand estimates, projects for power grids and high-voltage substations were being prepared and decided upon in the United States. In 1958 the Cuban electric company--I believe the people called it Kalixto Kilowatt or something like that--generated, in the two existing systems, 1.76 million megawatt-hours. Each megawatt has 1,000 kilowatts, so in order not to give large figures of many millions, reporting is in megawatts.

In 1977 the generating capacity of our electric system was 6.557 million megawatt-hours, that is, prior to the revolution in 1958, it was 1.76 million megawatt-hours. Last year it was 6.557 million megawatt-hours, 3.7 times what was generated in 1958. This increase is equivalent to an annual average rate of 7.2 percent.

With respect to the number of consumers, counting all houses, centers, public places, in 1958 there were 722,000 users. In 1977 we had 1,343 million users. In 1958 the country had a total of 13,000 km of lines carrying all voltages. In 1977 we had 36,200 km of lines. The entire national electric system is interconnected with lines of 110 kilovolts. That is another kind of measure. It is for measuring voltage, according to the engineers. For 1980 the entire national system will be interconnected with a line of 220 kilovolts.

Is that clear? In the past nothing was interconnected. The revolution interconnected first with a 110 line and now it is interconnecting with a 220 line, which allows greater capacity for transmitting electricity. This transmitting of electricity is very important, because there might not be enough in Cienfuegos when there is too much in Havana, and electricity is sent to Cienfuegos; or there is too much in Cienfuegos--which will probably be the case--and there is not enough in Havana, and electricity is sent to Havana from Cienfuegos. The people in Cienfuegos are going to be rich in electricity because they are installing two plants of 164 megawatts each.

Beginning with the triumph of the revolution, great importance was attributed to the electrical development of the country as a fundamental first step for our economic and social development overall. The revolution has invested 800 million pesos in generating units, including the investments under construction throughout the current 5-year period. Is the topic of interest to you? [crowd answers "yes"]

In 1978 we will complete the construction and installation of thermoelectric units with a capacity of 533 megawatts. This capacity is much higher than that which existed in the country prior to the triumph of the revolution and will require a serious effort on the part of all elements having anything to do with these investments. In this alone, plants or units with a capacity greater than that which existed in the country prior to the revolution will begin operating. These units are unit No 6 of 100 megawatts--this one, of the Maximo Gomez thermoelectric plant of Mariel, which we are dedicating today; unit No 3 of 64 megawatts of the 12 Octcber thermoelectric plant of Nuevitas, of which construction and installation has been completed and which is undergoing a period synchronization--as you just heard, they have even reached its designed capacity--unit No 3 of 100 megawatts of the Antonio Maceo, Rente, themoelectric plant; unit No 3 of 169 megawatts of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes thermoelectric plant of Cienfuegos; and unit No 7 of 100 megawatts of the Maximo Gomez thermoelectric plant of Mariel, which the comrades have pledged to complete by December of this year. They have committed themselves to us and the entire country. [applause] Thus, in 1978 the country will have in operation 1,936 megawatts, about five times what was in operation in 1958. So it can be said that in 20 years electricity generating capacity will have increased five times.

Despite this remarkable increase, great efforts are being made in building or planning new units. One must bear in mind that in an electrical system the investment process never stops and should move ahead of the rest of the economic development.

Units Nos 4, 5 and 6 of 100,000 [as heard] megawatts each of the Antonio Maceo, [formerly] Rente, thermoelectric plant in Santiago de Cuba; units 4, 5 and 6 of 125 megawatts each of the 10 October thermoelectric plant in Nuevitas; unit no 4 of 169 megawatts of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes thermoelectric plant in Cienfuegos will be incorporated into the system in coming years.

A new thermoelectric plant will be built northeast of Havana City. It will be a new one. It will be located a little beyond Guanabo, but do not be concerned, for it will not be on the beach. [laughter] It will be installed a little farther away, on rocky ground, so that it does not bother anyone.

Intense work is underway on engineering-geological studies of the zone where our first nuclear energy plant will be built near the city of Cienfuegos. The plant's first unit of 440 megawatts should enter into production before 1985, and a second unit approximately a year later. We are now involved in the work of studying the ground very thoroughly. The area where the plant will be located had certain characteristics, and an in-depth geological study had to be made in order to have complete safety. This was delayed the unit slightly, but you can visualize its size: Each of the unit's power blocks produces 4.4 times more than this unit we are inaugurating today. And, above all, the important thing is that its operation is based on oil. That [the use of oil] is a tragedy. All these investments have been contracted for or are in the process being contracted for or are under negotiation.

In accordance with an agreement in connection with the development of this important branch of the economy reached at the first party congress, we will have reached a generating capacity of 2,300 megawatts by 1980. This will mean almost doubling the capacity that existed in 1975. In other words, electrical power generating capacity will be almost doubled in only 5 years. We will then see if we then have blackouts.

I have already mentioned the new interconnections. The 220 line already connects Mariel with Santa Clara and, in the estern area, it connects Nuevitas with Santiago de Cuba. Work is currently in progress to connect Santa Clara with Nuevitas via that line, which will unify the entire national system on 220. Of course, the 110 line will continue to be used.

Our economic-social development has really increased the demand for electrical power. In the 1970-77 period, maximum demand has increased at an average rate of 8.5 percent per year. Eight and a half percent per year--it is a high increase. In the past 5 years more than 2 million electrical household appliances have been distributed to the population--including television receivers, refrigerators, washing machines, blenders, fans, electric irons and so forth. When all these are turned on, you can imagine the amount of electricity they require, and everyone turns them on at the same time, more or less.

The average residential consumption in 1958 was 69 kilowatt-hours per consumer. In 1977 it increased to 108 kilowatt-hours. We have had a considerable increase in per capita electricity consumption.

More than 100 schools have been electrified in the past 5 years--no, I am mistaken--more than 1,000 schools, and more than 1,400 agricultural-livestock installations. Six of our big factories alone demand the equivalent of a 100,000-kilowatt unit or 100 megawatts like the one being inaugurated in Mariel, for example. The Siguaney cement factory, the Nuevitas cement factory, the Nuevitas fertilizer factory, Antillana de Acero, the (Arquitec) textile mill and the (Cubranito) fertilizer factory--these six consume the electricity produced by one of these units.

There has not been real consciousness of this important energy source. The demand for electricity is not the same at all times of the day or during all months of the year. It is very low at dawn, when there is a surplus of generating capacity, and it is very high during the so-called peak electricity period, during which several electricity consumption activities merge, thereby producing a blackout as a result of a capacity deficit. In other words, we have a surplus of electricity at certain times of the day and a shortage at other times. And this is the origin of the so-called load arrangement. You have heard about this load arrangement, which is nothing more than trying to shift certain activities that take place during times of an electricity shortage to times when there is a surplus of electric power--let us say, for example, not using the irrigation system between 1900 and 2300, more or less, and using it in the day or at other times, and not using many machines in our industries at these times precisely to seek a balance, a consumption balance at different times of the day.

If in our enterprises we were to fulfill completely the agreements reached on the load arrangement, a considerable reduction of blackouts would result. If each residential consumer were to turn off a 60-watt bulb of the type that he usually keeps on between 1800 and 2200, maximum demand would drop by more than 70 megawatts, which is the equivalent to the demand of more than 200,000 housing units during peak hours. The average demand of a housing unit during peak electricity hours is approximately 270 watts.

Electrical power production requires costly investments and serious efforts by this country. It is scarce energy and costly, costly to produce: I am not referring to prices, because the prices are the same as they were a long time ago, which were the ones kept low by the old company. Oil today costs five times more. In any case, the prices have been maintained, and perhaps for that reason there is some waste of electricity.

A 100-megawatt unit like this one in Mariel generating power 200 days of the year consumes 185,000 tons of fuel oil. This means that in a year such a unit consumes the oil of nine 20,000-ton ships--this unit alone. A serious effort is being made to reduce the rate of fuel consumption of our thermoelectric plants.

In 1977 an average consumption of 313.7 grams per kilowatt-hour was reached; that is, each kilowatt-hour costs us 313.7 grams of fuel. This is about one-third of a liter, assuming petroleum weighs as much as water. But it weighs less, so it must be more than one-third of a liter of petroleum per kilowatt-hour. That is much less than the 398.6 grams per kilowatt-hour consumed in 1958. In other words, at present we are using almost 90 grams less per kilowatt-hour than we did prior to the revolution. That is progress, but we can do still better. Despite that, the country had to use more than 2 million tons of fuel for generating electricity.

The battle to conserve electricity is part of the country's general battle in the struggle for saving fuel. This can give an idea of the electricity problem, its history, the investments, the differences in consumption between the past and present, the growth of per capita consumption, the growth in generating capacity and so forth. This country is extremely important because, without it, there is no economic development. Without electricity, practically no factory can operate. Without electricity, there can be no service, no hospital, no school, no store. Without electricity, nothing operates in a home, no light, no television set or radio, or any other home appliance. That is why it is one of the most basic industries.

For some years the growth of demand was greater than the development of this industry. That is why we had prolonged periods of regular blackouts. That situation has been improving. I well remember the efforts that have been made since 1970 to install some units that had already arrived in the country and were waiting to be assembled.

Over the past 7 years, we have worked very hard to install new plants. Great improvement has been achieved in maintenance, and efficiency has increasingly improved. It is not easy to install these plants. I remember when we arrived here in Mariel while unit No 5 was under construction. We were briefed on the complexity of the installation, the thousands of pieces of tubing that had to be assembled to build the boiler, the tubing that had to be welded, the enormous amount of parts and pieces involved. Everything has to be properly matched to the boilers, turbines. In a word, it is a job that requires time.

A thermoelectric plant is simpler than a nuclear plant. You can well imagine the work involved in that first nuclear plant, with generators of 440 megawatts and all that problem of combustion, of boilers, which is very complicated. It is estimated that at some point 4,000 or 5,000 workers will be working on construction of one of those plants. For our country this will represent enormous progress. You are aware that fuel is a raw material, extracted from petroleum, a raw material that is increasingly scarce and increasingly more costly. That is why, for our country, which has no hydraulic energy, no coal or other sources of electricity, to enter the phase of using nuclear energy is of great importance. If a 100,000 [kilowatt] unit needs 9 ships of 20,000 tons [to feed it], a 440-megawatt unit requires 40 ships of 20,000 tons. However, the nuclear fuel it consumes can be carried in the hold of a small ship. We save enormous quantities of petroleum.

Let me explain: Even in cases of thermoelectric plants, let us see the differences between one type of unit and the other. In the days of capitalism, we were using 398 grams per kilowatt-hour. That is 398 grams of petroleum per kilowatt-hour. With the modern installations we already have and greater efficiency, we are now using 313 grams per kilowatt-hour. However, we still have some machinery that uses more--even 500. These machines are old, and we have machinery that uses less than 300. Let us note the difference between a 50-megawatt unit and a 100-megawatt unit.

The first four units installed here, according to the plans, should consume 306 grams per kilowatt-hour. The comrades have been successful in producing the kilowatt-hour. The comrades have been successful in producing the kilowatt-hour in those units with 301 grams. The 100,000 unit is designed to use 256 grams per kilowatt-hour, and the comrades have achieved a consumption rate in unit No 5 of 248 grams per kilowatt-hour. Note the importance of this: That unit of 100,000 uses 40 percent less fuel than was us used in the days of capitalism and less than the 50,000-kilowatt units use. That is why it is important to take the size of the plants, the technology and the efficiency of those plants into consideration, because of the important saving in fuel.

When our system was small, no one could think about nuclear energy, because nuclear units cannot be small; they cannot be of a size of 50,000 or 100,000 because they cannot be operated economically. They cannot be built to be of 50,000 or 100,000 capacity because they are not economical to operate. They must be approximately half a million as a minimum. But when the country used less than half a million kilowatts or less than 500 megawatts, one could not build a 500,000 plant, because the day that you had to stop it for maintenance, the country had to be turned off.

When this first unit of 440 megawatts enters into production, the country will have a thermoelectric capcity of some 3,000 [presumably megawatts]. Therefore, when the 440,000 are introduced, repairs will be planned so that when the thermoelectric plants are being repaired, the nuclear plant is not being repaired; when the nuclear plant is being repaired, all the thermoelectric plants will be kept running and the country is not blacked out. Do you understand? Because that unit is big. Fortunately, by that date our system will have grown approximately eight times more than that which existed before the revolution, and we will enter the nuclear age in terms of production of electric power.

On an occasion such as this one in which we are celebrating a triumph of the country, a triumph in production, a triumph of our workers and of our people, and of what these plants mean, it is very appropriate to highlight the decisive importance of the collaboration by the Soviet Union. Since the triumph of the revolution, we have done almost all the work with Soviet equipment [applause], although we also have some Czechoslovak equipment. And because of the need to speed up the work, we have had to purchase equipment elsewhere--the two [plants] in Cienfuegos are of Japanese origin.

The Soviet comrades from the start have given us great support in the development of the electrical industry and made us aware of the importance of this industry for the economic and social development of the country. From the start they have helped us draft technical plans. They have sent us qualified personnel to help us install these plants and put them into operation.

When one visits a plant like this one, one becomes aware of the enormous value which economic cooperation with the Soviet Union has for our country. And one can also appreciate the progress made in Soviet technology from one type of unit to another, the progress from the 50,000-kilowatt units, which are very good, to the 100,000 units, which are better. The 100,000 [kilowatt] units are more efficient and save more fuel. They are very good machines which our workers in the electrical industry handle perfectly well. The Soviets are developing bigger thermoelectric generating units of 200,000 kilowatts, of 300,000.

I was saying that the western zone needs another thermoelectric plant east of Havana. According to plans, it will be started with units of 100,000 [kilowatts]. The first three will be of 100,000. However, we want to be able to install in that thermoelectric plant other units with greater capacity--if possible, of 200,000 or even 300,000, because that thermoelectric plant will need to reach a capacity of 1,200 megawatts. In other words, it will be almost two and one-half times bigger than this thermoelectric in Mariel. If they are to be 100,000 units, we have to install two. If, following the 100,000 units, we were to install 300,000 units, we would only need to add three more units instead of nine, and, according to our experience, the more volume and better the technology we have, the more oil savings we get. And oil savings, I repeat, are vital.

This thermoelectric plant has already reached a capacity of 400 megawatts, which is more than before the revolution, and with its unit No 7, it will have 500 megawatts, which is quite a bit more than there was before the revolution. However, as a result of the country's present economic and social development, this is not much. We must continue working and, I repeat, the collaboration of the Soviet Union and Soviet specialists has been decisive, fundamental and basic in this development. That is why we take this opportunity of the presence of the ambassador, representatives of the Soviet Embassy and scores upon scores of Soviet specialists [applause] to express to them our deepest feelings of gratitude and recognition.

Based on what I have seen, Mariel is becoming an industrial municipality. I realize that not all of you are from Mariel. I know that many of you are from Havana city. I know this perfectly well. And, of course, if we did not give Mariel a little help, the Mariel municipality could not have built these installations. It was necessary to help them from the big city of Havana.

This municipality has some 32,000 inhabitants and about 14,000 workers. It is a municipality that will be acquiring an increasingly proletarian character. We have seen it grow economically. In agriculture this municipality has livestock, sugar, henequen and other enterprises. It has two sugar mills--the Sandino and Nodarse sugar mills. It has something that is being inaugurated today [applause], something that is being inaugurated besides the thermoelectric plant: the warehouse or the bulk sugar shipping port. [applause] It will have the opportunity of shipping much of the sugar from Pinar del Rio and Havana. This port has just been completed, and it represents very important help for the country.

We have the Mariel general cargo port, which is growing and developing. We have here the shrimp fleet base, which has a large number of workers. We have this magnificent thermoelectric plant [applause], this magnificent thermoelectric plant which, according to plans, will have a total of 1,048 workers. If there is more economy and rational utilization, perhaps the number will be reduced. In any case, it is an extremely important work center and a vital center for the country's economy.

We have the old Rene Arcay cement plant. [laughter, applause] It produces some 320,000 tons annually. It is cement that we dearly need, but we also have the new cement plant. [applause] That one is nothing to laugh about. [laughter] That plant will produce nearly five times what the old one produces and almost twice what was being produced prior to the revolution. Cement, like electricity, is dearly needed. Between the two, they will produce approximately 1.7 million tons of cement. How many things can be built with 1.7 million tons of cement? Perhaps we can even export a little cement through that port. We must not forget exports. [applause]

Mariel has those two magnificent polytechnical schools. [applause] One teaches about electricity, the other about cement. Other schools... We recently stopped at the urban secondary school which you built. We are building the naval academy, which is much bigger than the old one. It has a capacity of more than 2,000 students. We need masters, officers, ship technicians for the merchant marine, for the fishing fleet and for our naval units. It was too small, the old academy. They were also talking about some risk in using it, because the buildings were very old and were not very strong. Nevertheless, it will not remain empty; other things will be coming to that place. I am sure we will make good use of those installations. Even though the academy will be moved a little to the east, it does not mean that the place where the academy now is will remain undeveloped.

But in reality the difficult thing here in Mariel is to see the town. It cannot be seen anywhere. [unintelligible shouts] The industry has grown, but the social growth has not matched it. That is the social problem, the matter of housing. [applause] We have lagged behind in housing. If these great industries are developed, with the many workers who are needed, that problem has to be solved one way or another. It is not only a case of workers in these industries; we also have the professors, teachers, school employees, service personnel. I believe that the Havana Province party has been helped by the Havana City Province party; the construction organizations have been pressured by the electric industry; the construction materials industry has been supported by the people's governments of the two provinces. You must plan how the city of Mariel will be developed. [applause]

I imagine that the people of Mariel also have governing guidelines and know where to place each thing for the city's future development. That cannot be forgotten. It is necessary that we see the city--a factory here, a smokestack there, enormous towers and the town cannot be seen. [shouts from crowd] I do not know if you have it hidden behind the hills or somewhere else, but the fact is that it cannot be seen. This is an important aspect that must be examined and seriously considered. I believe that it is essentially just, above all, that we observe the spirit with which the workers work in this region, how well this thermoelectric plan is operating, with what efficiency it is operating, the huge cement industry we will have, the selfless effort of the industrial and agricultural workers of this municipality.

We would be remiss not to mention the workers who are building those industries, the comrades of industrial construction brigade No 10 [applause], who built this very important Maximo Gomez thermoelectric plant; the workers of industrial construction brigade No 31 [applause], who are building the cement plant. I feel hopeful that in the near future we will be able to meet in a modest rally, such as this one, to dedicate that colossus of the cement industry. [applause] We expect that at least the first line will be finished this year and next [year] two lines will be completed, that those factories will be in full production by 1980, and that we will have all the cement needed to have the schools, the clubs and the dwellings. [applause]

Without cement and without electricity, there can be no clubs, no dwellings, no theaters and so forth. That is sure. Just to show that no matter how much is said something is always left out, we did not mention the microbrigades. [applause] As was said here, they have made a great contribution. They can also help---I do not know whether they come from Mariel or Havana. [shout of "Havana"] They are from Havana. Where are the Mariel microbrigades? [unitelligible shouts] We must also say something about the workers who built the bulk sugar terminal, those who are building at the port, those who built the polytechnics. None of that comes out of a hat or a magic wand. It did come out of a magic wand-- you know which one? The magic wand of men's work. [applause] All these marvelous things came out of it.

That is why it made no moral sense that the workers had to build the factories and the dwellings so that they would become the property of the bourgeoisie. They did not give not even a single brick. They did not assembly even one screw. But they were the owners; the workers had nothing. What a moral and stimulating feeling work has today when the thermoelectric plant is built--for whom? For the workers, for the people--when the cement plant is not built for this or that company but for the workers, for the people; when our agriculture and our industry exist and function for the people. That is why, in our society and in our revolutionary process, each new factory is a new banner, a new incentive and a new advance, because they are centers where no bourgeoisie will exploit any worker. They are centers whose products are immediately converted through all means to the benefit of the people.

I am certain that all people, especially those in the city of Havana and in the Western part of the country, will view the completion of that new unity with much happiness.

It is necessary to congratulate, in addition to the workers of brigade No 10 working in Mariel, the workers of brigade No 8, who completed another unit in Nuevitas. [applause] And I promise them, of course, that as soon as I have the opportunity, I will go to that unit to see their work and greet them.

Everyone is pleased with projects such as this one, since everyone suffers the consequences of the lack of electricity, blackouts and so forth, and the tremendous and terrible inconvenience of a blackout anywhere and the inconvenience it creates in families, production and services, and in everything. This should bring closer the date when systematic blackouts will have disappeared. There will always be some blackouts as a result of lightning, a storm or other such phenomena, which are absolutely impossible to prevent.

However, as a result of the growth rate we are experiencing, it can be expected that this situation will gradually improve through 1980--much this year, much more in 1979--and we can be without periodic blackouts in specific areas by 1980. Now, then, this means that we have to speed up our new investments, speed up work on the new thermoelectric plant east of Havana, accelerate negotiations and contracts for new plants, because it could be that blackouts will be eliminated. But they may return in 1981, 1982 and 1983 before the nuclear energy plant enters into operation. That is why the work of these brigades that are building the new units is decisive. The work of our electricoal industry workers in the operation and maintenance of the industry is decisive. The work of the electrical industry is very important in order to consolidate from now on these advances we are and will be achieving in coming years and in the end we can breath easy without blackouts.

And to give due attention to savings of electricity: Sometimes I see some schools and installations full of bulbs. I say to myself: Why do they have so many bulbs? Why do they have so much light? Why do they use so much electricity, since we already know that each kilowatt-hour costs 300 grams--a little more than 300, 313 grams of oil? And oil is scarce, expensive. Why not give sufficient attention to the problems of load arrangements to prevent discomfort for the people? That is why the work of the ministry is very important and the collaboration of all organizations is very important in the important task of electricity savings.

No one has the right to waste electricity, because we can already see the effort required to produce electricity; we can see what has to be done to build these units, what they cost, the hours, months and sometimes years devoted to the construction of each unit, the oil shipments required, the sugarcane that must be cut and the sugar that has to be produced to be able to acquire these industries and the fuel. And when one is aware of this, when one knows it, he will certainly think that it is a duty to save electricity and will not waste electricity in the home, school, hospital, factory or anywhere else.

We congratulate the workers gathered here and the residents of the town of Mariel for this new success. We congratulate the electrical industry workers and we congratulate our hardworking workers of the industrial construction and installation brigades for the effort they have made. And we express to them our trust and confidence that they will continue working with the same spirit until all the thermoelectric and nuclear energy plants which our country's future requires are built. We congratulate them for their spirit and we congratulate everyone for their efficiency.

Fatherland or death! We shall win! [shouts of "venceremos," applause]

HAVANA NOTES MENGISTU'S REMARKS ON INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

FL151310Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Ethiopian people, with their own effort and the international solidarity of progressive forces, will emerge victorious, Ethiopian chief of state Mengistu Haile Mariam has affirmed during a press conference in Addis Ababa, the capital. The Ethiopian leader threatened to break diplomatic relations with the United States, Great Britain and the FRG if they continue to support Somalia's reactionary regime.

The material aid Washington gives Somalia, Mengistu said, is being channeled through third countries, particularly reactionary Arab nations. The African head of state cited as example the capture by Ethiopian troops of NATO war material. He recalled that during the past 25 years the United States had maintained troops and military bases on his country and that military presence and aid had stopped when the Ethiopian democratic revolution assumed power. He stated that the United States had appropriated the payment of arms purchased by Ethiopia and had left the doors open to the current Somali invasion of Ethiopian territory.

At this historic juncture, he added, when an unjustified invasion is being conducted against Ethiopia to destroy its independence and when this country's masses are resolutely engaged in a bitter struggle, we have to express gratitude for the aid and support lent by the progressive forces, particularly from the Soviet Union and Cuba.

LECHUGA CONDEMNS NEUTRON BOMB AT UN MEETING IN GENEVA

FL160043Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban representative on the UN Human Rights Commission, Carlos Lechuga, has stated that the concept of the neutron bomb is reason enough for it to be condemned. In a statement to the commission meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, Lechuga stated that the neutron bomb is targeted specifically against human beings, not against structures, and that this is the most complete negation of all the principles in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The Cuban representative also referred to the imbalance between the developed and underdeveloped countries in relation to scientific progress, and stated that some states had used this progress to attack others which did not have it.

BRIEFS

RADIO REBELDE ANNIVERSARY--The main event marking the 20th anniversary of the founding of Radio Rebelde broadcasting station will be held on 24 February at 2000 at the Lazaro Pena auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] building. The main speaker at the event, with which the labor movement and people in general will pay tribute to the radio station--the revolutionary war's means of informing and guiding the Cuban people--will be CTC Secretary General and PCC Central Committee member Roberto Veiga. Portions of the more important speeches made by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, over Radio Rebelde frequencies will be replayed during the ceremony. Well-known Cuban performers and musical groups will entertain those in attendance. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL]

BAHAMAS

HAITI REPLACES CONSUL WITH AMBASSADOR

FL141900Y Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Republic of Haiti has upgraded the status of its relations with the Bahamas. His excellency the acting governor-general, Sir Gerald Cash, accepted the credentials of His Excellency Mr Serge Charles at Government House this morning as the first ambassador from Haiti to the Bahamas. Prior to this, Haiti maintained only a consul here to care for its affairs. Mr Charles spoke in his native tongue. In reply, Sir Gerald mentioned the consular relationship and the seeming importance that Haiti places on the strengthening of ties with the Bahamas. Mr Charles is expected to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Pindling.

HAITI

JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED AFTER DOMINICAN MINISTER'S VISIT

PA160408Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0124 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 15 Feb (AFP)--A joint declaration issued here today states that relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic "are based on the principles of good neighbors, mutual respect and cooperation in the progress of their communities, without excluding the most backward ones." The declaration was issued after the official visit to Haiti of Dominican Foreign Minister Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez from 8 to 10 February. The document also expresses "the firm desire of the Haitian and Dominican governments to strengthen even more the relations between the two countries in the political, economic, social and cultural fields." The declaration advocates "a peaceful solution in the event of a conflict." It also states that Haitian Foreign Secretary Edner Brutus was invited to officially visit the Dominican Republic and that "the invitation was accepted with great pleasure."

JAMAICA

ECLA WOMENS CONFERENCE OPENS IN JAMAICA

FL150104Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The first meeting of the Regional Committee for the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America began today in Kingston under the chairmanship of the Cuban representative, Vilma Espin. The meeting in the Jamaican capital is under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America--ECLA--with the primary objective being the evaluation of progress made in the development of the regional action plan to integrate women in the economic and social development. Cuba holds chairmanship of the meeting, with Jamaica and Mexico as vice chairmen and Venezuela as secretary. The Cuban representative, speaking at the meeting, made special reference to the need to increase the efforts to achieve full participation of women in the economic, political, social and cultural life of each country.

Reception in Honor of Espin

FL141750Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1706 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Beverly Manley, president of the Jamaican Women's Movement, has given a reception in honor of Vilma Espin, member of the Cuban Council of State, and the official delegation accompanying her. Premier Michael Manley's wife, Deputy Prime Minister David Coore, members of the diplomatic corps, Parliament members and ministers attended the reception held at the government palace, Jamaica House. Others attending the reception in honor of Vilma Espin were the two chiefs of the Jamaican Joint Command and police, Maj Gen (Rudolph Greene) and Commissioner (Desmond Campbell), respectively. A group of Jamaican folklore singers entertained those in attendance with national cultural heritage songs.

'Political Event' Reported

FL152118Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2037 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] In Jamaica Cuban Women's Federation [FMC] President Vilma Espin and Beverly Manley, wife of the prime minister of that country, have presided over a political event at the Government House in Kingston. The event was attended by hundreds of people, leaders of progressive women's groups and the executive of the Jamaican Women's Movement, which is attached to the ruling People's National Party. Council of State member Vilma Espin responded to the show of affection by reaffirming the solidarity of our country and especially the FMC with the Jamaican people. Beverly Manley, president of the Jamaican Women's Movement, told of Vilma Espin's background, describing her as an outstanding revolutionary woman, whose example should inspire Jamaican women in their struggle for emancipation.

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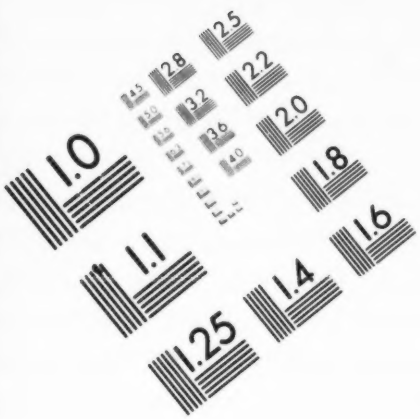

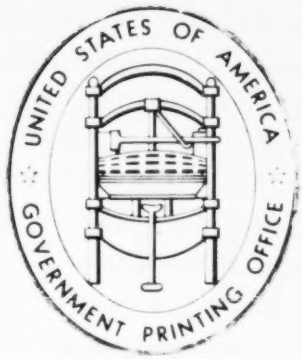

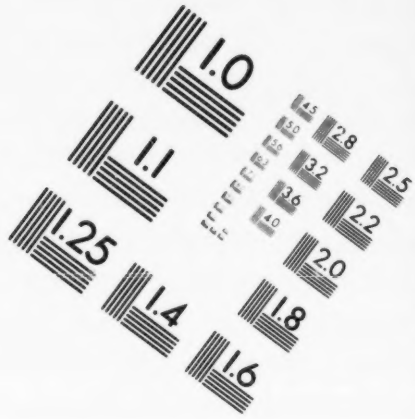

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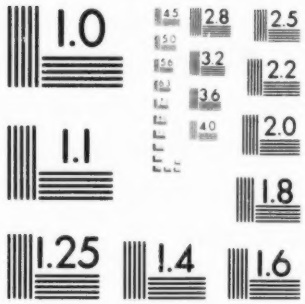

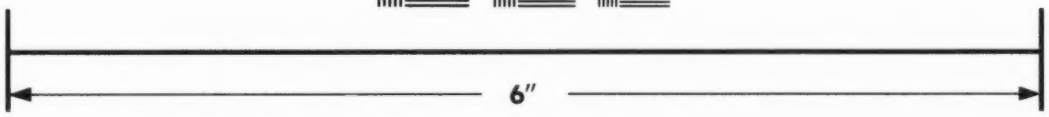

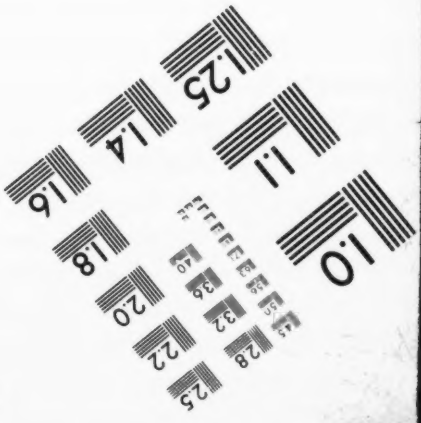

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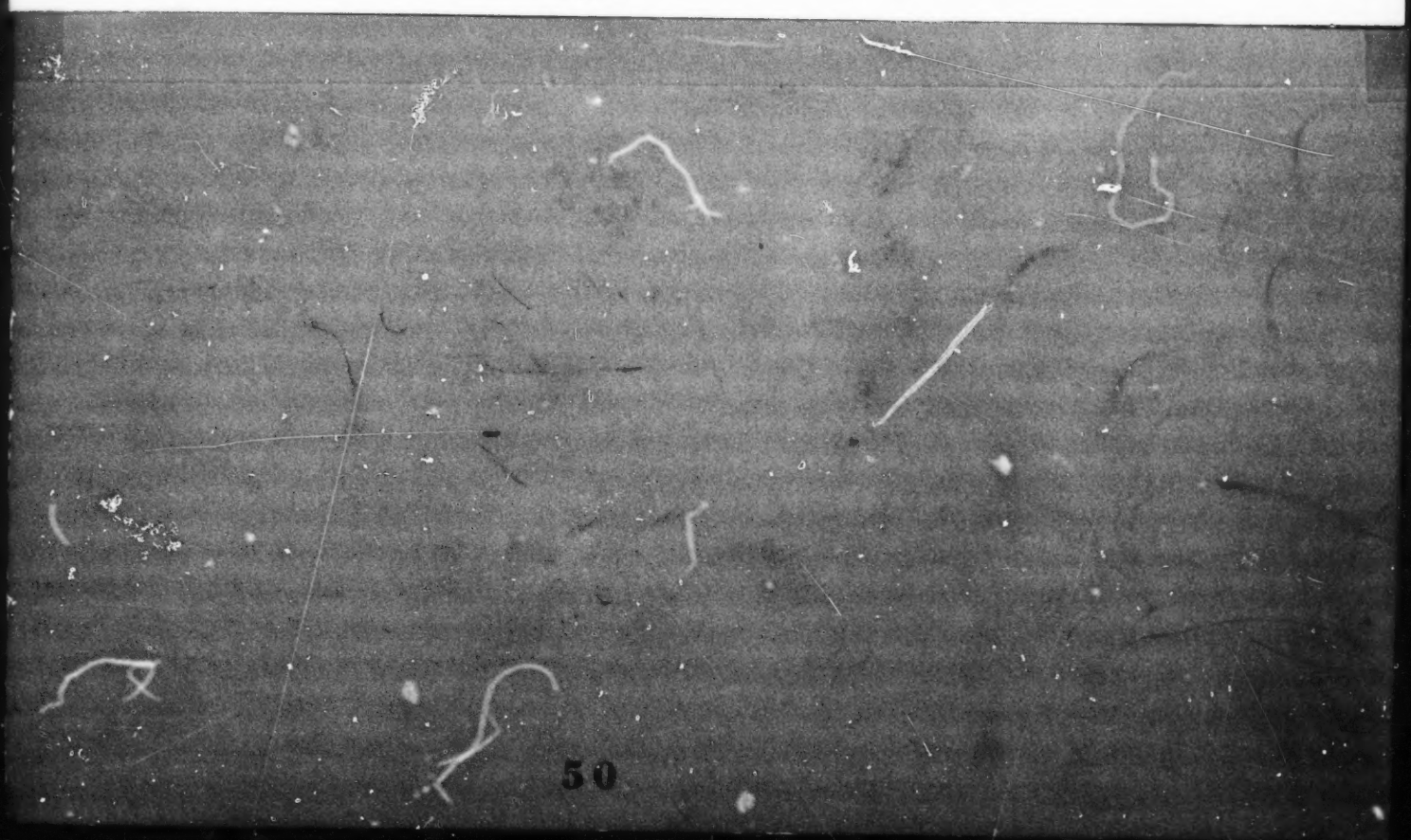
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